

Abstract

System and method for IP telephony. The system includes an IP telephone (IPT) and a Service Gateway (SG). The SG receives an identifier, e.g., a vendor class identifier, included in a DHCP discover message from the IP telephone and determines if the identifier is valid. If so, the SG issues a DHCP offer comprising DHCP lease information to the IP telephone, including a range of port numbers assigned to the IP telephone based on the identifier, where the range of port numbers comprises ports which are not reserved for use by other IP protocols. The DHCP lease information includes information indicating operational software for the IP telephone which the IP telephone executes to enable IP communications. The SG mediates IP communications between the IP telephone and an IP device, where the IP telephone uses at least a subset of the range of port numbers to send or receive IP communications.